

August 16, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Richie:

I am writing to ask you to extend the time to read and comment on the final environmental report released July 21st. We also believe Cal-Fed should hold public hearings on the plan. To allow us who must abide by the Bay-Delta Program to understand how we fit into the plan.

We farm about 1000 acres of rice and walnuts in Yuba and Sutter Counties. Over 400 acres of the rice ground is flooded after harvest each year to provide habitat for waterfowl. Cal-Fed should conduct habit-restoration work on existing government owned land before it begins to acquiring more land.

Government owns half the land in California now, yet 75 percent of wildlife exists on privately owned land. We take seriously our roles in caring for our land and environment.

Cal-Fed needs to move quickly to develop more surface water storage with adequate yield to accommodate the increasing population and environmental needs of California. Water conservation cannot make the same strides it has in the past, and will not meet the needs of the growing population in the State.

We will work to become more efficient, but drought will take a serious toll on California's economy and environment in the near future unless new storage with additional yields come on line soon.

As a director of Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau and a State Director for California Farm Bureau Federation I urge you to consider this request.

Sincerely,


James H. Marler

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein

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Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Doug Ose
Governor Gray Davis
State Senator Johannessen
Assemblyman Dick Dickerson
Sutter County Supervisors